

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for indicating that claims 1 – 7 and 13 are allowed. No amendments to the allowed claims are proposed.

Purpose

Applicants respectfully submit that the amendment to paragraph [0019], as described below, enhances the structural description of the present invention.

Amendment

In paragraph [0019], the term "fluidized bed apparatus" has been amended to read "fluidized or spouted bed apparatus." Applicants respectfully submit that the term "spouted bed apparatus" is a term of art in the field of fluidization that is readily recognized by one of ordinary skill in the art. As an industry-accepted term, the insertion of the term "or spouted" (resulting in "fluidized or spouted bed apparatus") more accurately describes the structure of the apparatus of the present invention.

Applicants note that the allowed claims have not been amended and thus contend that, due to this fact, combined with the very minor nature of the proposed amendments to the specification, no additional search or examination is required.

Patentability

As explained above, allowed claims 1 – 7 and 13 have not been amended and, thus, remain patentable for at least the reasons set forth in the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance dated March 9, 2007 [Paper No. 20070220].

Timing

Applicants intended to effect the proposed amendment via a response to a substantive Office Action. Applicants' opportunity to do so was precluded by the issuance of a first action Notice of Allowance (subsequent to the Restriction Requirement dated June 14, 2006).

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application, including claims 1 – 7 and 13 and proposed paragraph [0019], is in condition for allowance and a Supplemental Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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